



US Army Corps
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Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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District's First EAGLEs Graduate

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The Nashville District is ringing a little more these days since 250 new phone lines were installed in January as well as a new telephone for each District office employee.

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Joanne Mann, management analyst, Management Analysis Branch, was named the Employee of the Quarter for July – September 2000. At the time of selection, she was the Legal Assistant in the Office of Counsel.

Pay Attention To The Fisherman Warning System 16

This past year all of the Nashville District's nine power plants have activated their fisherman warning systems, but people still need to be educated to heed their warnings.

On the Cover



Photo by Bill Peoples

The first EAGLE Program Class stands with Program Manager William James (first row, far left) and Deputy District Commander Maj. Rich Shelton (first row, far right). They are: (first row, left to right) James, Jerry Weaver, Teresa Wilhite, Carol Restey and Shelton; (second row, left to right) Lyla Lewis, Joanne Mann, and Kimberly Spicer; (third row, left to right) Kenneth Lewis, James Sowell, Doug Delong, Annette Robinson and Kaye Steed; (fourth row, left to right) Lisa Jerrell, Gerald Choate, and Dave Robinson; (fifth row, left to right) Karyn Meeks, Eleanor Ervin, and Ronnie Smith.

DistrictDigest

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil>.

Thoughts From The Trail...



Hello Nashville, as I write this, it's raining outside for the fourth day in a row. A few minutes ago I opened up an email from Jim Upchurch, our chief of Water Management in Hydrology and Hydraulics, that provided an update on water levels throughout the Cumberland basin. For the first time in years, we're spilling water at Old Hickory, Cheatham, and Barkley. Friday, Feb. 23rd, Dave Verploegen and our Emergency Management team will lead the staff in a flood exercise to help us prepare for a situation that we hope never materializes. I put this in the *Digest* just to remind everyone that we're entering flood season. Now is the time to review your responsibilities and to prepare your office/project. It's been several years since we've experienced a major flood event—we're overdue so let's be ready.

I was pleased that the last edition of the *Digest* had two articles on Individual Development Plans (IDPs), something we've been emphasizing lately. If you haven't recently reviewed your IDP and career goals with your supervisor, then you soon will. I've asked that all IDPs be updated by the end of March so that we can use this input as we develop our training budget and program for next year. We've also asked four of our stalwart employees (Connie Flatt, Wayne Easterling, Jean Todd, and Doug Delong) to develop and implement an automated training management system as their team project under our Leadership Development Program. The bottom line on training is that we'll continue to commit significant resources (time and funds) to provide you with the training you need—hopefully these efforts will make our training program even more effective.

Next week, I will attend a ceremony during which the District's quality efforts will be recognized by our receipt of a Tennessee Commitment to Quality Award. More than fifty companies/organizations entered the Tennessee Quality Program. We should all feel proud of this recognition, the third highest level of recognition we could receive. It recognizes our commitment to becoming a learning

organization, one that continually strives for customer satisfaction and process improvement. Our receipt of this award is the result of the entire District's efforts to become a more efficient/effective organization. I also need to recognize our Tennessee Quality writing team—Carol Warren, Christine Rossi, Dave Treadway, Vicki Goosetree, Jody Stanton, Todd Yann, Vicky Caldwell, Barney Davis, and Doug Mullendore — who spent countless hours trying to document our processes. Many thanks to all of those involved with our quality efforts — your efforts have and will continue to make a big difference!

As I have for the last couple *Digests*, I want to update you on where we are with some of our quality of life initiatives. First, our renovation work: Regulatory Branch is now working at J. Percy Priest in newly converted space. To quote Ron Gatlin, our Regulatory Chief, "it's bad out here at Priest but we're tough in Regulatory, and we'll somehow manage to get by." Seriously, Regulatory's new office space looks great — be sure to give Ron and his staff some "sympathy" for their hardship conditions. Here in the federal building, we recently relocated the Credit Union and will soon have EEO in a new, more spacious office. Work should soon begin on renovations in the Operations area for the Locks and Hydropower sections and for part of Physical Support; on a new conference room adjacent to A640; and in our corridors and common areas.

Our new phone system is working well, and I'm told that most folks enjoy the new features like voicemail. The phone upgrade process was complex and wouldn't have happened were it not for the great efforts of George Grogan, Ken Laster, Todd Duncan, Mike Swing, and Bobbie Austin. Many thanks for all your late nights and the weekends you devoted to this project.

One final quality of life initiative that I want to advertise is that we now have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) available in the Nurse's station in the Federal Building. An AED is a device used to revive someone who's had a heart attack. John Manor, Mike Zocolla, Tom



Pirkle, Bill Bennett, and Donna Pendergrass were trained in how to use the AED. Although our nurse, Melissa Cothran, tells me that the device is simplified to the point that a fifth grader can use it by simply following the on-screen instructions. We have keys to the Nurse's Station if you ever need the AED when it is closed.

I need to recognize the efforts of our Special Emphasis Program team that put together a fantastic Black History Month program. Several employees told me that this year's program was the most professional and enjoyable they've ever attended. In case you missed it, the program included a review of the Black History Proclamation by James Sowell; a reading of Maya Angelo poetry by Myrna King; a duet by Shonka White and Al Michael Rogers; recitation of a speech by Nelson Mandela by Dave Day; and Blues music by our very own Deep Water Boys (Todd Yann, Barney Davis, and Ralph Ownby). Many thanks to Stephanie Coleman, Deborah Fletcher, and Rita Gonsalves, who planned and coordinated this superb event. Well done.

Congratulations are due for several of our staff at the Wolf Creek Power Plant—Wesley Butler is now a senior mechanic; Kevin Chambliss is a Power Plant shift operator; and Greg Raleigh is a Power Plant senior electrician. I also need to recognize Peggy Harker for her role in getting a key Project Cost Agreement signed with Metro - Nashville for a levee project — two years of hard work coming to fruition. Another employee recently recognized at Headquarters-level is Tim McClesky who was the USACE nominee as the Black Federal Engineer of the Year in

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See Thoughts From the Trail

Corps Employees Now CPR Certified

Story and photos by Stacy Bennett

In the event of an emergency in the District Office, five more Corps Employees are certified to take charge of the situation and administer Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or first aid until a medical team arrives on scene.

The five: Bill Bennett, John Manor, Donna Pendergrass, Tom Pirkel, and Michael Zoccola, attended a CPR/Automated External Defibrillator (AED) skills training class Jan. 31 so they would know what to do if faced with an emergency in or out of the workplace. Heather Neeley from the American Red Cross taught the first-time class and certified the employees. Corps employees were joined by two employees from the Internal Revenue Service and two from the Veterans Administration.

Employees learned a variety of different ways to assist someone in distress. They learned how to remove contaminated gloves without also becoming contaminated. They learned how to correctly administer CPR. They also learned how to properly use an AED device.

PEOPLE

Employees learned that CPR must be performed until the AED device is ready for use. If there is an emergency in the District Office, or in the Federal Building between 6:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m., there is an

AED device located in the Employee Health Clinic on the fourth floor in Room A440, and Melissa Cothron, RN, can be reached there at 736-2322.

Many of the tips shared by Heather might be useful to all employees. She said to remove the victim from a vehicle in the event of an auto accident and look for alert tags and bracelets before beginning CPR. Then Heather said after CPR is performed a victim is almost always going to be nauseated so you should check for obstructions to breathing. If a victim needs to take medication, employees were cautioned to let them get the pill bottle out and take it themselves, because you do not know their medication schedule, and if you administer the medication, you could be held liable. She also stressed the need to always wear gloves before touching a victim. Rings should be removed, however, before pulling on the gloves. Heather recommended keeping several pairs of gloves, breathing barriers, gauze, and roller bandages in your car just for emergencies.

She pointed out that the AIDS virus does not live more than five minutes outside the body, but Hepatitis can live two or three weeks outside the body. So if exposed to blood during an emergency situation, then you might want to consider getting the three shots for Hepatitis so you are safe.

She recommended a simple formula to remember if anyone is a witness to a car accident and decides to help the victim. The formula is SAMPLE. This stands for Symptoms, Allergies, Medication, Pain, and Last meal Eaten. If you know some or all of this information, it will help paramedics when



(Left to right) Mike Zoccola, John Manor, Bill Bennett, and Tom Pirkel review first aid procedures as part of their recent training in CPR/AED and First Aid by the American Red Cross.

they arrive.

Patty Jackson from the IRS relayed an important story that all would do well to remember. "My friend witnessed an accident and dialed 911 on his cell. Since his cell phone was registered in Texas, he spoke with a Houston, Texas, 911 operator. So be aware if an emergency situation arises and you use a cell phone to call 911 make sure the cell is registered in the state of Tennessee. Many people are unaware this will occur in the event they dial 911 from outside their calling area."

Once you call for assistance, there are a few things that are good to know: how many people are hurt; if inside a building, an easy way for paramedics to get to the room where you are located; the age of the victim; a direct phone number where you can be reached; and if on the interstate, try to describe the last big green sign that you saw.

If a victim goes into shock, several signs will let you know: restlessness; irritability; pale, moist skin; blue tint to lips and nails, or upset stomach. If you notice someone is about to go into shock, the instructor recommended lying the victim on their back and raising their legs 12 inches off the floor to help them calm down (if there is no back or head injury). In the event someone is having a seizure, do not try to hold them down because it

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Heather Neeley (right) from the American Red Cross instructs students in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) as Donna Pendergrass (left), Safety Office, prepares to use it.

EAGLE Program Graduates First Class

by William L. James,
EAGLE Program Administrator

The Nashville District's first EAGLE (Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence) class flew the coop during graduation ceremonies in December. The 20 members of the class came together from the District Office and the field to improve their leadership skills and other career management areas.

The 1998 Nashville District Employee Survey identified a need for training to assist employees in developing basic skills. The EAGLE program was designed to meet this need by developing the individual and team skills of the District employees. The program consists of four components: District orientation, generic skills, career management, and leadership skills. An important aspect of the program is that it is open to all permanent employees in full-time, part-time, or seasonal positions.

The Deputy District Commander manages the EAGLE Program and appoints a program administrator to organize, locate, schedule, and evaluate the training activities. Twenty employees (eleven District office and nine field) were selected through a lottery process to participate in the inaugural 2000 class. Spaces were allocated throughout the District organizations to ensure a diversity of class participants. The program began in June and ended in December.

The goals of the EAGLE program include:

- Enhance understanding of human behavior and interpersonal relations and create the type of climate essential for effective teamwork at the Corps of Engineers.

- Learn skills needed to perform more effectively with professional confidence.

- Develop awareness and understanding of the visions and values of current Corps of Engineers leaders and managers.

- Assist the EAGLE program participants in clarifying and establishing their own values.

- Provide a forum for team members to exchange ideas, understandings, and appreciation for organizations and disciplines within the District.

- Foster group dynamics among participants which will improve communication with the District across organizational lines.

- Foster the goals of the Districts Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

PEOPLE

The 2000 EAGLE program consisted of in-house briefings, site visits, and formal off-site classroom training. In-house briefings included overviews of the Construction-Operations; Engineering; and Planning, Programs, and Project Management Divisions by the respective Division Chiefs, and briefings from the District Commander and Deputy Commander. In-house training also included sessions about the District organizational structure, budget process, media tech-

niques, cultural diversity, conflict management, ethics, Nashville Business Plan, RESUMIX/STAIRS, resume preparation, management/employee relations, and interviewing techniques. The class visited Old Hickory Lock and Dam (a Nashville District multi-purpose project) for briefings from project personnel. The group also visited Kentucky Lock for a briefing about the new Kentucky Lock project.

In addition to the in-house sessions, the class received 48 hours of formal classroom instruction at Belmont University. These classes included topics on communication styles, time and stress management, change, building successful teams, decision-making skills, business ethics, presentation skills, and self-assessment (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator). Outside reading included books such as *Who Moved My Cheese?*, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, and *The Eagle's Secret*. Belmont instructors conducted individual exit interviews at the conclusion of the formal classroom training to assess the overall effectiveness of the program.

Feedback from participants in the inaugural class has been overwhelmingly positive. One of the major strengths of the EAGLE program is the interaction that occurs between class members with diverse backgrounds (field/district office, blue collar/white collar, etc.). Minor curriculum and organizational modifications to enhance the overall effectiveness will be implemented for the 2001 class. □

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Mike Zoccola, Environmental Restoration Branch, learns to use the Automated External Defibrillator and CPR in order to render lifesaving first aid if needed.

will not work. When the seizure ends, the victim will be confused and probably not remember the seizure.

Remember, the Chain of Survival for heart attack is: call 911; perform CPR; use an AED; and get early advanced emergency treatment. Anyone in the Federal Building can call 911 if they see that someone needs emergency care. After calling 911, the Employee Health Unit should then be notified at 736-2322.

If the number for the Employee Health Unit does not respond, call one of the newly certified CPR/AED team members. The CPR/AED team members are Clyde Bennett, VAA, 736-5186; Bill Bennett, USACE, 736-7744; Patty Jackson, IRS, 250-

5749; John Manor, USACE, 736-5678; Donna Pendergrass, USACE, 736-7742; Tom Pirkel, USACE, 736-5612; Joe Smith, VAA, 736-7233; Jerry Thompson, IRS, 250-5975; and Michael Zoccola, USACE, 736-7805.

The five Corps employees said they learned many useful techniques during the training and would recommend it to everyone.

Melissa Cothron said, "We hope that we never have to use the AED machine but it is a wonderful tool to use in saving lives, in the event someone needs it." For more information contact Melissa Cothron, RN, at 736-2322, or email her at mrcoth62@ml.irs.gov. □

Bristol Signing Marks Beginning of Study

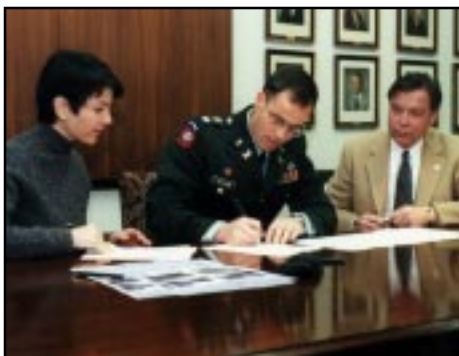
Story and photos by Bill Peoples

Representatives of the twin cities of Bristol, Va., and Bristol, Tenn., signed an agreement with Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, district engineer, Nashville District, in January to begin a year-long \$600,000 study of flood-prone Beaver Creek, as U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher (9th District-Va.) and U.S. Rep. Bill Jenkins (1st District-Tenn.) observed.

"The flood study, the creation of new flood maps and the development of flood protection alternatives are the first steps not only in the effort to make Bristol flood safe, but also in the possible development of a Beaver Creek Walkway Project," said Boucher. "I know the Corps will thoroughly investigate the alternatives and present a plan to protect downtown Bristol."

The agreement signed by Taylor, Bristol Tennessee Mayor Sue Ojanen and Bristol Virginia Councilman Doug Werberling authorizes the Corps to enter Phase II of the Feasibility Study of Flood Damage Reduction of Beaver Creek. During Phase I, team members gathered data to be used to pinpoint the existing flood plains.

"During Phase II, we will create new flood maps using the data from Phase I and more data that we collect, said Todd Boatman, project manager. "Since Bristol is in two different FEMA Districts there has been a problem matching up flood plain maps. The new maps will match up the data."



Bristol Tennessee Mayor Sue Ojanen (left), Nashville District Engineer Lt. Col. Pete Taylor, (center) and Bristol Virginia Councilman Doug Werberling (right) sign the Bristol Feasibility Study agreement to begin the yearlong study.



(Left to right) Bristol Tennessee Mayor Sue Ojanen, U.S. Rep. Bill Jenkins (Tenn.-1st), U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher (Va.-9th), Bristol Virginia Councilman Doug Werberling and Nashville District Engineer Lt. Col. Pete Taylor sign posters commemorating the Bristol Feasibility Study agreement. The signing took place at the Bristol, Tenn./Va. Chamber of Commerce.

The section of Beaver Creek flowing through downtown Bristol has been prone to flooding for many years. The last major flood was in 1977, but recent flood events in 1993 and 1998 prompted flood damage reduction measures to be studied.

"During the next year we will complete the Hydraulics and Hydrology Model, the new FEMA maps and the feasibility study," said Boatman. "The study will include: collecting structural data such as first floor elevations and structural inventories, assembling an array of alternatives, screening process of those alternatives, and a selection of an alternative. After an alternative is selected a Real Estate Plan will be done for it and some preliminary design will be completed as well as a Cost-Benefit Analysis. All this will be completed by March 2002."

The project team includes: Boatman, project manager; Phillip Jones, Planning; Wayne Easterling, Environmental; Mark Flick, Hydraulics and Hydrology; Mike Lee, Design; Gary Stinton, Cost Estimating; Daphane Jackson, Geotech; Mark Elson, Geology; Vince Greer, HTRW; John Coode, Mapping; Janie Billingsley, Real Estate; Joe Morrison, Landscape Architecture; John Manor, Architecture, John Janowicz, FEMA; Cindy Poppelwell, AMEC (formerly Ogden Engineering); Tim Beavers, Bristol Virginia City Engineer; and Jack Hurlbert, Bristol, Tennessee City Engineer.

"We have a quite large and diverse team for this project," said Boatman. "We plan on doing about 80 percent of the work

in-house and have our A-E, AMEC, do the other 20 percent."

There are two unique features to this project according to Boatman. The feasibility report will be web-based, and the data collection will be the first time for a feasibility report to use handheld computing devices to input data in the field. There will be links on the site to the GIS database and multimedia of the project including photos and video.

"Our A-E will be using the Compaq Pocket PC, a handheld device which uses the Windows CE operating system, to input structural data as they collect it," said Boatman. "The program uses forms with a series of drop-down menus to quickly input the data. All the data collected will then be downloaded into one database."

PROCESSES

Another unique feature of this study is dealing with two city governments, two state governments, two congressional districts and two FEMA regions.

"This project is unique," said Taylor. "It is the first time that the Nashville District has had a project that cut across so many different governments and boundaries. A lot of cooperation has been needed to bring this study about. The congressmen worked together and both cities worked together to obtain the funding for the project. We have worked with both FEMA regions, and both regions have assisted with the funding of the project." □

Donated Computers Will Benefit Others

Story and photos by Bill Peoples

The Nashville District recently donated used computers to Southwest Atlantic Community Development, Inc., (SACD) a child development and learning facility, in Atlanta, Ga., and Tennessee State University's College of Engineering and Technology. Some of the computers donated to TSU are now at Cockrill Elementary School in Nashville, Tenn., where they are being used in a computer lab.

"Under the DITMS (Defense Information Technology Management System), we are able to donate excess computers to other federal agencies, educational institutions and non-profit organizations, instead of sending them to Fort Campbell for disposal," said Jim Hughes, supply and disposal officer, Logistics Management Office. "There is a priority system, which tells us where an agency or organization falls on the ladder and whether or not we can donate to them based on their priority."

On Jan. 16, 21 computers and 18 monitors were picked up by SACD to be used in their new child development facility in Atlanta. On Jan. 17, 19 computers and 18 monitors as well as other peripherals were donated to TSU.

"We are giving these computers to TSU

under the Advancing Minorities In Engineering Program (AMIE)," said John Hall, AMIE coordinator. "Although this is only one way we support TSU, it is unique because they turn around and help other schools through the program."

This is the second time that the Nashville District has donated computers to the University to be used in their programs and in other programs they support.

"It is great that not only can we benefit from these computers, but we can also help schools, which we sponsor," said Dr. Decatur Rogers, dean, TSU's College of Engineering and Technology. "We are very appreciative to the Corps for continuing to assist us with this program."

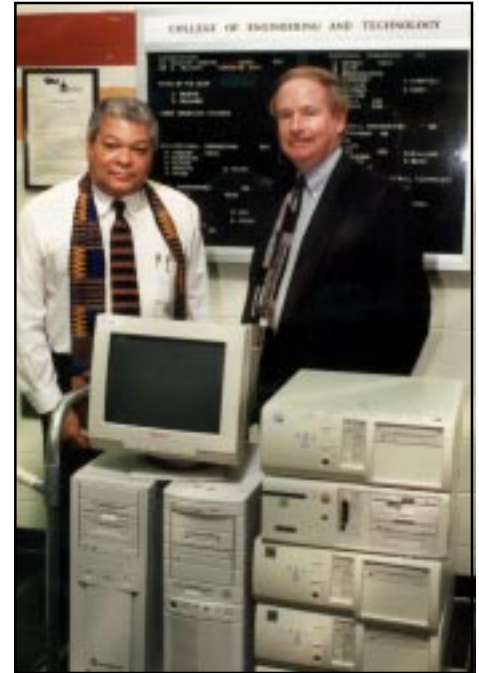
Nine of the computers donated to TSU made it to the Computer Lab at Cockrill Elementary the next week.

"If it were not for the Corps and TSU, we would not be able to operate our Computer Lab," said Loretta Green, family/school coordinator at Cockrill Elementary School. "We have received all of our computers in the lab from TSU. They not only donated them, but also set them up and periodically come in and make sure they are operating correctly. TSU students also volunteer in the Computer Lab, which not only assists us but also meets their community service requirement."

Cockrill Elementary uses the computers in their second through fourth grades and with their Science Club. The school also hosts classes for family members and adults to familiarize them with computers.

"In both our student and the adult classes, we teach basic computer skills," said Green. "Our more advanced students are already using these computers to do reports. We have many under-privileged students, who would otherwise not be exposed to computers since they don't have one at home."

Every computer donated to Cockrill was checked out



(Left to right) Dr. Decatur Rogers, dean of Tennessee State University's College of Engineering and Technology and John Hall, Advancing Minorities In Engineering (AMIE) Coordinator for the Nashville District stand behind some of the computers recently donated from the District to TSU as part of AMIE program.

by a computer technician from TSU before it was setup at the school.

"We check to make sure the systems are working properly, before we bring them out," said Rogers. "We set them up and load the school's software on each of them. We make sure that each computer can print to one of the printers. Sometimes, we have problems with cables or not having the right driver for a printer, but the computers from the Corps are in pretty good shape when we get them."

The Nashville District is helping others by a simple act of donating computers to worthy causes. Each computer donated provides an opportunity for someone else, according to Rogers.

"In our day and time, teaching computer skills to this age group is not a luxury, but a necessity to make sure that they are not left behind," said Green. "By giving them this opportunity now, we are literally opening new worlds for them and who knows what dividends this will pay in the future." □



Don McMillan (left) from Goodwill Industries, and Jim Hughes (above), Logistics Management Office, unload keyboards, which were part of the 19 computers and 18 monitors donated to Tennessee State University from the Nashville District. This is the second time the District has donated computers to the University.

Hydropower Training Program

Story and photos by Larry Forte, Hydropower Section

The Nashville District is now interviewing candidates for Hydropower Class XIII, scheduled to begin in June. Approximately 40 applicants will be interviewed for 12 positions.

In 2000, the Nashville District's Hydropower Training Program celebrated thirty years of preparing individuals to excel in this demanding field. This program started out as a pilot program to try to turn around high trainee failure rates and length-of-training times for journeyman-level and senior-level employees in the hydropower mission. Also because of reductions in the overall government work force, employees would have to be better trained to maintain the excellent maintenance standards and availability that the Nashville District had experienced in the past.

Another reason the District

trains its own people to work in power plants is the skills a person must possess to perform his or her duties in a hydro-plant. An example of this would be the craft skills of a Power Plant Mechanic; not only must he have the skills to maintain the mechanical equipment in the power plant, but he must also be a certified welder, machinist, carpenter, concrete expert, painter, air conditioning and heating mechanic, pipe fitter, crane operator and rigger, and instrument mechanic.

PEOPLE

The same applies to the power plant electricians. They must not only be able to trouble-shoot or connect a general lighting or motor circuit correctly, but they must also be able to repair the high-voltage equipment, telephone systems, electronic recorders and alarm systems, D.C. battery systems, relays, transformers, bushings and much more. There is no readily

available place to recruit and hire people of this skill level. The only alternative is to train them. The District's training program is one of the most highly respected training programs in the Corps and is used as a model for other Districts to follow.

The Nashville District has recently advertised to fill positions in its Hydropower Training program. People from all over the United States have applied and taken an "OPM Apprenticeship Exam" to qualify for the program. The program has three-year and four-year apprenticeships that train employees to become Power Plant Shift Operators, Power Plant Mechanics or Power Plant Electricians.

Besides, the OPM test given to the general public and the in-house Department of the Army employees, the program also recruits cooperative education students from area two-year technical schools. Several of the District's power plants are

located in very remote areas and have hard-to-fill positions at those locations. The technical school students usually attend local two-year schools because they don't want to leave the area where their families are located. Following this reasoning, the District recruits co-op students at these remote locations to try to fill those vacancies with people who will

want to work and live at those locations.

The hydropower jobs are very popular due to the special rates of pay, but they are also very hazardous and require special training to operate and maintain the high voltage and flood control equipment located at the Districts' nine power plants. The Nashville District fills approximately 96 positions to support the hydropower mission from these trainee positions. This will be the 13th class to be started in the program's 31-year history.

The District has a special training facility located at Old Hickory Power Plant, where all new trainees spend the first year. They will receive two hours of plant studies from the Hydropower Training Instructor each day. They receive two hours of academic classes from an instructor from one of the local colleges each day. The other four hours of the day are spent performing on-the-job training with the craft people at the power plant. The students are divided into three groups and they rotate between the crafts every two weeks.

During the first year the trainees are given weekly tests to monitor their progress. At the end of each phase, they are given a written exam from the college instructors and an oral evaluation from an appointed examining board. They must make passing grades in both to continue the program. This puts a lot of pressure on the trainee to perform.

The pressure is a part of the overall education process for the trainees. These employees have to be able to perform under pressure, when the lights go out due to a storm, when a town or parts of a city are going to flood due to a large rainfall, when



A display of hand machined projections is shown, which the mechanical trainees completed while training at Tennessee Technology Center, part of the Hydropower Training Program in the Nashville District.

Continues Tradition of Excellence

someone is working on a 172,000-volt line, or maybe when all three scenarios are happening at the same time. You want someone to do the correct procedure while under pressure situations, and that's one of the products of the program.

All of the trainees take the same training during the first year. Upon completion of the first year, each student is assigned a craft in which the trainee will specialize. The mechanics and electricians are sent to an area vocational school for six months to receive machine shop, welding, industrial motor repair and HVAC training. The operators will remain at Old Hickory studying relays and working with the operators for the next six months.

At the end of this phase of training, each trainee is given an evaluation from the vocational school instructors and also an oral evaluation from the examining board. They must pass to continue the program. This is also the time the trainee is transferred to another facility, where he or she is targeted to have a permanent position upon completing the program. It takes approximately three years to reach the journeyman level and four years to reach the senior level. The celebrations that occur when the students finally reach their goals and are assigned permanent positions can only be imagined.

The training program is also a source of managers of the power plant facilities. Without the technical and operational knowledge they gained while training, it would be hard to make management decisions associated with these facilities. Tony Bivens, power project manager for Old Hickory, Cheatham, and J. Percy Priest power plants, is also



(Left to right) Old Hickory Classroom with Class XII-Andy Brimm, Greg Haste, Andy Dowell, Gary Mullins, Chris Campbell, Deborah Furkins, James Kelty, Anthony Watters, Jamie Holt, and Analiza Boling.

a graduate of the first Hydropower Class in the Nashville District.

Until recently, the instructors for the training program have been qualified craft people detailed to that position. Presently, the District has a permanent instructor, Stephen Miller, who not only instructs but also manages the program. Miller is only the fourth instructor during the history of the program. The first was Robert Maples, followed by Issac Shelby and Larry Forte. The most notable instructor was probably Robert (Bob) Maples. While giving an oral exam, he would look at the trainee with an intimidating poker-faced stare and simply ask, "Are you sure about that answer?" This alone has made many trainees sweat profusely, quiver in their seats, and come close to passing out

during an exam.

Those visiting the Old Hickory Power Plant should be sure to visit the training facility. The entrance to the training classroom has a display of all the employees who participated in the hydro-program since its inception in 1970.

Recruiting good employees for the program is an ongoing

process, continually looking for people who have good work ethics, are at least 18 years of age, are physically fit and pass the entrance exam to enter the program. For additional information or to be notified when the next program is scheduled to start, call Steve Miller at (615) 847-1187 or Larry Forte at (615) 736-7693. □



Trainee Andy Brimm works in the control room at the Old Hickory Power Plant as part of the Hydropower Training Program.

Management Support Branch Provides Vital Functions to the Operations Division

Story and Photos by Bill Peoples

Nashville District's Management Support Branch of the Operations Division provides administrative, budget, and computer support for the Operations Division and field activities.

Although the branch is small with Stephen Moneymaker, chief; Philip Burney and Debbie Groghan, budget analysts; Ed Morris, Carol Restey, Larry Stephens, Isaiah Bellais and Joey Turner, computer support, Julie Reeves, administrative support assistant and training coordinator; and Mark Hallar, special projects; it assists the Chief and Assistant Chief in managing the Operations Division, which has 525 people authorized. Although not in the branch, members of Office of the Chief, Yvette Walker and Shirley Wilson, also work closely with all members of Management Support.

"The Management Support Branch is vital to this office and does an outstanding job providing support in a wide range of activities," said Ralph Ownby, assistant chief, Operations Division. "By consolidating the support functions in one area, we provide a higher level of support to our personnel in the District Office and in the field."



(Left to right) Joey Turner, Shirley Wilson, Philip Burney, Yvette Walker, Ed Morris, Julie Reeves, and Debbie Groghan make up part of the team that supports the administrative, budget and computer areas. Not pictured are Stephen Moneymaker, Carol Restey, Larry Stephens, and Isaiah Bellais.

Moneymaker handles employee relations for the Operations Division, which means he is involved with the employee unions and with management to resolve conflicts and problems at the lowest possible level.

"Besides serving as Chief, one of my main jobs is employee relations for Operations," said Moneymaker. "Having served in the field and in management, I have a good feel for what the issues are on both sides. I try to troubleshoot conflicts before they turn into real issues."

Another sensitive area which Moneymaker oversees is coordinating responses to congressional inquiries that affect the Operations Division.

"Steve handles some sensitive and often controversial areas for us and does a great job," said Ownby. "In the employee relations area and coordinating responses to congressionals, we rely on his judgment and abilities to deal with these matters and help resolve them."

PROCESSES

Moneymaker also deals with issues such as responses to command inspections, employee and public safety, procurement actions, property accountability, reports of survey and organizational and analytical reviews.

"I deal with a lot of smaller issues for the Chief and Assistant Chief, which frees them to concentrate on major issues and overall management," said Moneymaker. "From day-to-day, I never know what is going to land on my desk so it keeps it very interesting. One day I might be working a grievance, the next a congressional and the next an organizational study. I'm fortunate to have a great boss, great co-workers, and a chal-



Stephen Moneymaker, chief of the Management Support Branch, oversees a diverse group, which support the entire Operations Division. He also handles employee relations, congressional responses and special reports for the Division.

lenging job."

The two Budget Analysts, Burney and Groghan, provide budget support and guidance to the entire Division. They work closely with other Branches in the Division and with field offices to ensure a high execution rate for the current budget and preparation of the out years' budgets. The current budget for Operations and Maintenance is \$64.9 million, which is the bulk of the funds that Burney and Groghan support.

"We are constantly shifting funds to meet requirements in the field and to execute the budget," said Burney. "We work with the Operations Managers and Budget Technicians in the field to make sure that we are not only spending our money as programmed, but also that we are able to react to new requirements and emergencies. With locks and dams and power plants, you never know what is going to happen that might need immediate funds and we also support Readiness Branch, including emergency operations."

Both Budget Analysts work all areas of the budget. They support funding for Operations and Maintenance, Flood Control, Regulatory, and other activities.

Continued on Page 11



David Tuggle, from Expanets cross connects switch ports to riser cables, which feed the different floors.



Ken Laster, Information Management Office and Miguel xxxxx, from Expanets, game plan the installation of the new Inter-Tel phones on the fourth floor.

New Phone System Provides More Capability with Less Cost

Story and photos by Bill Peoples

The Nashville District is ringing a little more these days since 250 additional new phone lines were installed in January as well as a new telephone for each District office employee. The new Inter-Tel telephone system also brings many new features like voice mail, conference calling, call forwarding and call redial.

The \$178,000 system includes four new trunk lines that provide the 250 additional phone lines, a new switch and a new computer that runs the system.

"This was a fairly complex install for us," said Kim Runchey, project manager, Expanets, Inc., the project vendor. "With 374 people being spread throughout three floors and two buildings and the switch having some new unique requirements, it has been a challenging job."

Expanets, Inc., provided training on the

new system before the installation, and also manned a help desk during the first three days of operations.

"We want to make sure our customers know how to operate the new system," said Runchey. "We provide training classes and are here during the first couple of days to answer questions and solve problems. We spend a lot of time with customers up front to make sure they get the capabilities they need and then make sure they have the training to use the system."

The Communications Section of the Information Management Office paved the way to make sure the present infrastructure was ready for new lines and to make the transition a smooth one.

"George Groghan, Ken Laster, Bobby Austin, and Mike Swing have worked hard to be ready for the installation and have

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See New Phone System**

Continued From Page 10

"We both work in all the budget areas," said Groghan. "Philip is the primary POC for the O&M, and I am the primary POC for Regulatory and Readiness budgets, but we back each other up in all areas. We work with the Budget Technicians in the field on a daily basis. Since we work in CEFMS everyday, we also handle a lot of CEFMS questions from others in the District Office and field."

Much of Burney and Groghan's time is spent on the same types of activities each year as they go through the budget cycles.

"The budget area has constant cycles, which don't change much from year to year," said Burney. "The only thing that has changed in the last couple of years is the reporting requirements. We are asked to provide a lot more reports to LRD (Great Lakes and Ohio River Division) than we have done in the past, which has increased our workload."

The workload of Julie Reeves, the Branch's administrative assistant, is mind boggling when you consider she supports the training needs of over 500 people and that their training needs vary from trade

skills to operate and maintain the locks, dams and power plants, to skills needed by rangers, to management skills.

"I really enjoy my job," said Reeves. "I know some people think it is overwhelming, but you take each situation at a time and after a while you know what kind of training is available for the different areas. I like it when someone comes to me with a unique training requirement, and I have to figure out the best way to fill it."

Meeting the computer needs of the Operations Division is a huge requirement and takes the biggest slice of the Management Support Branch's personnel.

"We have about half of the computers in the District assigned to us," said Morris. "We are on a lifecycle maintenance program of four years for all the computers in the Operations Division, which means we replace about 114 computers every year. We have five people to support over 440 computers spread through 37 field locations in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama."

The mission of the Computer Specialists and co-ops in the Management Support Branch is to install new computers, troubleshoot network problems, and

keep the various automated information and control systems functioning that are the lifeblood for Operations Division.

"You have to figure that an installation is not just one installation, but the computer you replaced goes to someone else so one installation is really one new installation and maybe as many as three reinstalls," said Morris. "As you can see that amounts to a lot of time and travel. Carol and Larry spend most of their time on the road, and our new co-ops, Joey and Isaiah, and I get out fairly often, too. Luckily nowadays with Windows, we can troubleshoot many problems over the phone, but sometimes you just have to go out and fix it."

Whether it is fixing a computer, preparing and executing a budget, meeting a training requirement or dealing with an employee problem, the Management Support Team truly supports the Operations Division everyday, whenever called upon, according to Ownby.

"We do a lot of stressful work with the different support activities we are involved in," said Moneymaker, "but I'm blessed with a great team that can handle it and does everyday." □

Smith Replaces Massa as Dale Hollow Resource Manager

by Bill Peoples

Ronnie Smith feels he has come full circle. As a child, he spent many hours on and around Dale Hollow Lake. Now as the resource manager, he has the opportunity to give something back to an area, which has given him so much.

"I grew up near Dale Hollow Lake and it has always been a special place to me, even before I heard about the Corps of Engineers," said Smith. "To now return here to help manage and maintain it and to hopefully make it an even better place to visit is a dream come true."

In early-January, the leadership of Dale Hollow Lake passed from Franklin D. Massa to Smith in early January as Massa retired after more than 35 years of government service. Smith takes the reins as Resource Manager for one of the most visited lakes in the country.

A favorite for more than 3.5 million visitors a year, Dale Hollow Lake combines deep, clear water and stunning natural scenery to create a unique recreational opportunity.

"Dale Hollow Lake has so much to offer visitors," said Smith. "It is unique in the Corps, as being one of the few lakes which is a tourist destination, like the Great Smoky Mountains and other national parks. We draw visitors because of our water quality, our natural beauty and clean environment. It is also an important part of the local economy and accounts for about \$120 million in extra revenue. It is truly an honor to help lead and manage this special place."

Smith takes over from Massa who served as the Resource Manager at Dale Hollow for 15 years.

Massa began his lengthy career with the United States Government in 1961 as a Student Trainee with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. He was commissioned a First Lieutenant and served as a helicopter pilot at Fort Rucker, Ala., in 1964.

After completing his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science at Tennessee Tech in 1966, Massa was hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in September of 1966 as a Reservoir Ranger at Center Hill Lake. In 1969, he transferred to the



Photo courtesy of Dale Hollow Lake Resource Manager's Office

Ronnie Smith, the new Resource Manager at Dale Hollow Lake, brings 28 years of experience with the Corps and a diverse background to meet the future challenges of the lake.



Photo by Ed Evans

Frank Massa enjoys a moment during his retirement dinner. He retired after more than 35 years of government service and 15 of those years as the Resource Manager at Dale Hollow Lake.

District Office as a Reservoir Manager.

Two years later, in 1971, he was promoted Reservoir/Park Manager and moved to Dale Hollow Lake. He transferred to Center Hill Lake in 1975 and then back to Dale Hollow in 1985. During his tenure at Dale Hollow, Massa had received the Commander's Award in 1989, the Ohio River Division Project of the Year Award in both 1988 and 1989, and the Chief of Engineers Award of Excellence in 1989.

As resource manager, Massa has been instrumental in many natural resource management programs at Dale Hollow Lake. Dale Hollow is a 61-mile impoundment of the Obey River. The lake consists of 27,700 surface acres of water with 24,842 acres of surrounding land. The lake covers six counties located within the states of both Tennessee and Kentucky. Dale Hollow hosts more than three million visitors annually to its pristine shorelines. Visitors destined to enjoy the developed campgrounds, day use areas, and safe waterways will have experienced first-hand the fruits of Massa's labors in providing first-class public services. In addition, Massa partnered with other agencies to

bring 44 young Bald Eagles to the Dale Hollow Eagle hacking site and sponsored multiple public special events to include Eagle Watch, Environmental Education Camp, Fall Trail Ride and Lakeshore Cleanups.

Frank Massa's accomplishments are not limited just to the Corps of Engineers. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel after 32 years in the Tennessee Army National Guard. He has a successful family and is involved in his church, West View Baptist and the Cookeville Civitan Club. Frank Massa and his wife, Sharon, look forward to retirement and plan to travel extensively.

Smith comes to Dale Hollow with an extensive 28-year career in the Corps including serving as a ranger, program manager in the Regulatory Branch, a biologist in the Planning Branch, and as an environmental protection specialist in the Natural Resource Section.

"I'm lucky to have a broad background with the Corps," said Smith. "I hope I can use some of that background to help address some of the challenges we have at Dale Hollow such as the increasing visitation and educating the public more about protecting the environment."

Some of Smith's goals are to balance the demands of increasing visitation with protecting the environment around Dale Hollow Lake; through a capacity study and visitor feedback find out what customers want out of their recreational experience at Dale Hollow in order to plan goals for the future; and rehabilitate facilities around the lake to provide visitors with better services.

"Although we have funding constraints, I want to see what we can do to upgrade our facilities around the lake," said Smith. "Many of our facilities are 40 years old and in need of renovation. Visitation has steadily been increasing in the last few years, and we have increasing pressure to allow additional commercial marinas around the lake. We have to balance those recreational demands with protecting the environment around the lake."

One of the immediate challenges facing Dale Hollow is to develop a restoration plan for Lillydale and Willow Grove

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Mann is employee of the Quarter

Joanne Mann, management analyst, Management Analysis Branch, was named the Employee of the Quarter for July – September 2000. At the time of selection, she was the Legal Assistant in the Office of Counsel.

During the award period, Mann provided excellent support to the Office of Counsel and also participated in EAGLE (Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence) program.

"The real reason Joanne deserves this award is her selfless contribution to helping others by serving as co-chairperson of the 2000 Combine Federal Campaign for the Nashville District," said Bob Miller, chief, Office of Counsel. "She is always willing to participate in and support District activities. Her leadership and active involvement is to be commended."

For her efforts leading the 2000 CFC in the District, Mann received the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

As the Office of Counsel's Legal Assistant for five years, Mann assisted five attorneys with research and preparation of briefs, facilitated communication between the attorneys and their claimants, and prepared legal documents. She also

participated on Continuous Improvement and Strategic Planning Teams and prepared and maintained a half million-dollar budget.

Mann is a 1999 graduate of Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing, and in December, she graduated from the EAGLE Program, one of the District's leadership development programs. In 2000, she entered an exclusive club completing her Castle, with 82 castle comment blocks, which also reflects the high esteem that is held for her by other team members.

She has been seen frequently on stage in the Nashville District's Christmas programs of the last three years. Mann's most recent role as Ginger in Stephanie Coleman's production of "A Christmas To Remember on Gilligan's Island" brought rave reviews and critical acclaim, according to fans.

"Above all Joanne has a 'can do' attitude, which has made her name synonymous with customer care and assistance throughout the Nashville District," said Miller. "Her efforts went far beyond job requirements and made the Office of Counsel a better place to work. □

Continued From Page 12

Campgrounds as the ravages of the Southern Pine Beetle have cost the those campgrounds thousands of trees.

"The tree cover at those campgrounds is almost all loblolly pine," said Smith. "The Southern Pine Beetle has destroyed almost all the canopy at those campgrounds. It is like a bomb hit those places. After the removal of the dead trees, the real work begins in removing stumps, the burning of slash and debris, topsoil replacement in some areas, re-grading and seeding. We will be aggressively seeking donations of trees to re-plant. We plan to replace those pines with hardwoods."

One unique challenge for Dale Hollow Lake is working with a diverse community that straddles two states and several counties.

"Our staff here works with the Tennessee Wildlife and Resources Agency, and the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Division of on a daily basis," said Smith. "We work closely with law enforcement agencies and

other agencies in both states as well as in the surrounding local governments. We are lucky in that those agencies take as much pride in Dale Hollow as our staff does, and our partnering efforts have been outstanding."

According to Smith, as a youth when he fished on Dale Hollow Lake, he dreamed of many things but not of working on the Lake or much less helping to manage it.

"I spent much of my youth near Jamestown, in Pickett and Fentress Counties, Tennessee," said Smith. "My family and I frequented the very upper end of Dale Hollow near Eastport Marina where the East and West Forks of the Obey River converge. This is also the most remote, undisturbed, and beautiful section of the lake. Being on the lake as a youth was a priority for me. We fished, hiked, spent family time, and camped at every opportunity. I never realized at that time that I could one day have an actual part in managing an area that was so much a part of my life. Thanks to the Corps of Engineers that is indeed now a reality." □

New Phone System

Continued From Page 11

done an outstanding job working with the vendor during the installation," said Todd Duncan, chief, Customer Assistance Branch, Information Management Office. "There was a lot of planning that went into this new phone system. We have a lot more features than we had on the old system, and we tried to accommodate the requests of the various staff sections."

The new phone system is a result of years of planning and budgeting to make sure the Corps got the best system for the cost.

"I spent about four years planning for this new phone system," said Groghan. "We wanted to make sure it not only met our current requirements but also our forecasted requirements for several years to come. It took a lot of work, but I think folks will appreciate the new features and capabilities."

The new switch replaced 23 separate telephone key units, and now allows everyone to be able to intercom between offices. The installation of the switch for the system provided some challenge to Expanets and the trunk line provider, Adelphi Communications. Normally the switch is mounted on a wall, but because of lack of wall space in the room where the switch is located, it had to be mounted in freestanding cases.

One particular feature of Inter-Tel system is it's ability to adapt and grow to meet the changing demands of an organization or business.

"As sections get use to the phone and understand more of its capabilities, they may want to change some features," said Duncan. "We have the contract set-up in order to do this. We also have yearly maintenance setup in the contract."

The District's new phone system will take some getting used, especially the new features, but so far the IM staff has not heard anyone asking for the old one back, according to Duncan.

"I think the transition has been an outstanding success," said Duncan. "It was not without some glitches, but overall because of hard work and team work it has gone well. The credit goes to each staff section who gave us their input, to the vendors and to our great IM support staff." □

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

... April Napier, student aide, Martins Fork Lake, made the Deans List the fall semester at Southeast Community College located in Middlesboro, Ky.

Vicky Caldwell, Planning, Programs, and Project Management, whose son James Crenshaw, won the "Four-Way Test" speech contest sponsored by the Madison-Goodlettsville Rotary Club. James was awarded a \$500 scholarship and will go on to compete in April at the Rotary Club District contest that will be held in Columbia, Tenn.

...Ronnie Smith on his new job as Resource Manager at Dale Hollow Lake.

Farewell to...

... Roger Deitrick's, operations manager Nashville Area Office, who retired on Jan. 3.

... Franklin Massa, who retired as Resource Manager at Dale Hollow Lake.

... Janine Cowling, supply technician at Lake Barkley, who has taken a position at Fort Campbell, Ky.

... Robert Powell, seasonal park ranger at Lake Barkley, who transferred to Grapevine Lake in the Fort Worth District.

... Kenny Claywell, park ranger at Lake Barkley, who transferred to Old Hickory Lake Resource Office.

... Brock Jones, student trainee park ranger at Lake Barkley, who has returned to the University of Tennessee — Martin this semester.

... Ken Scott, park ranger at Lake Barkley, who has taken a as a Facility Management Specialist for the 81st Regional Support Command Engineer Team in Louisville, Ky.

Welcome to...

... Donald Dean, Dennis Wiley, Carl Scott, Steven Stoneburner, Terry Forshee, Pat Henson, Josh Lowery, and Brian Brewer, who are participating in the lock operator training program this year at Wilson Lock.

... Mark Klimaszewski, new park ranger at Lake Barkley. He transferred from the Rock Island District where he worked for Illinois Waterway. Klimaszewski is a graduate of Western Illinois University with a degree in Parks

and Recreation.

... Thea Rogers, office automation clerk at Chickamauga Lock. Rogers attends the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she is currently studying Business.

... Tiffany Holley, office automation clerk at Watts Bar Lock. Holley attends Roane State Community College, where she is currently studying Elementary Education.

Baby Brigade to...

... Sandy Bennett, administrative assistant, Cheatham Lake Resource Manager's Office, who has a new grandson. His name is Payton Matthew Huddleston. He was born Jan. 25, weighed 7 pounds and 5 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches long.

... Pam Warfield, park resource office assistant, Laurel River Lake, her husband Mike, and big sister Morgan, on the birth of daughter and new sister, Kelsey Marie, who was born on Sept. 11th, weighing 6 pounds, 14 and 3/4 ounces, 21 inches long.

... Sandra Walters, Administrative Assistant for the Eastern Kentucky Area Office and Lake Cumberland and her husband, Robert who are proud grandparents of Dexter Christian Walters was born on Jan. 4, weighing 7 pounds, and 15

ounces. He is their first grandchild.

... David Landis, park ranger at Lake Barkley and his wife, Leah, on the birth of their son, Jacob Aaron Landis, who was born on Nov. 18.

Sympathy to...

... the family of Stanley Patch, retired maintenance worker at J Percy Priest Dam, who passed away on Feb. 8, at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

... Angela Knoth, Budget Technician at the West Kentucky Area Office, on the death of her father-in-law.

Thank you from ...

... Mark Herd, park ranger, Center Hill Lake, "Sherry and I would like to thank everyone in the Corps for their support during our recent loss. On December 21, 2000 our house burned and we lost everything. Words can not express the appreciation for the cards, letters, phone calls, prayers, visits and donations. We wanted to thank all of the Corps family for your concern. The encouragement we received and continue to receive is truly uplifting. There is no doubt the Nashville district is more than a team we are a family. I can never say thank you enough for the kindness we have been shown." □



A team composed of senior managers, LDP participants, and Tenn. Quality Award Writing Team went through the GAP analysis process to identify areas for improvement within the District. At far Christine Rossi, who helped facilitate the meeting, hangs suggestions on the wall.

Photo by Ed Evans



Vechere Lampley, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, made an interesting presentation during Graduation Ceremonies about the hats the LDP Class of 2000 had to wear during their adventure together. The Class of 2000 consists of: Steve Beason, Ray Bess, Todd Duncan, Kathy Grimes, Connie Hardeman, Bill Hill, Vechere Lampley, Steve Moneymaker, Larry Nash, Bob Sneed, Lois Smith and Cayce Tiesler.

Photo by Bill Peoples

Thoughts From the Trail
Continued From Page 3

the community service category. He was recognized for this achievement by Maj. Gen. Hunter, HQUSACE, in a ceremony in Baltimore. Thanks to Bill Peoples for his nice article on David Hendrick's championship handball activities that recently appeared in USACE's *Engineer Update*.

Congratulations also go to Mike Zoccola, who was the District nominee for Federal Engineer of the Year, and to Barney Davis, who was our nominee to Tennessee Society Professional Engineers for the Government Engineer of the Year award. I would also like to applaud the Corps family spirit in Engineering-Construction Division for recent overwhelming generosity shown to our two Co-op students from the University of Puerto Rico, Denisse Hazell and Jocelyn Feliciano. Thanks to your donations, they now have a completely furnished apartment. This certainly will make their Co-op experience more affordable and beneficial, and exemplifies the team spirit of our District. While mentioning E-C contributions, let me commend John Manor for his continuing architectural support to our building improvement program, David Hendrix and Perry Bruce for their customer-focused floodway work in Sevierville, and the entire Environmental Restoration Branch for their outstanding responsiveness to countless customer requests this year.

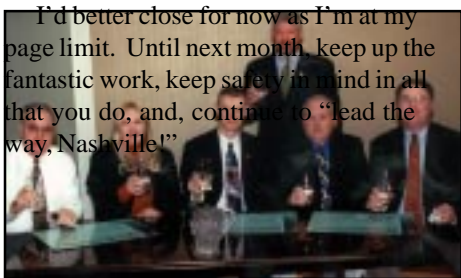


Photo by Bill Peoples

During the signing of the Lewis, Lawrence and Wayne County Water Planning Partnership Agreement, participants make a toast using water from Lewis County. Pictured are (left to right seated) Guy Nicholson, mayor of Hohewald; Gilda Colley, Wayne County executive; Dave Day, deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management, Nashville District; Mike Ray, mayor of Waynesboro, and Terry Bunch, Lewis County executive. Standing is State Rep. John White.

Calendar

February

19	President's Day, Federal Holiday
22	Black History Month Program, Room A640, 10:30 a.m.
23	U.S. Flag raised on Iwo Jima, WWII, 1945
24	U.S. House of Representatives voted to impeach President Andrew Johnson

March

1	President Kennedy establishes the Peace Corps, 1961
4	First Congress declares Constitution in effect, 1789
7	First U.S. combat forces arrive in Vietnam, 1965
11	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established, 1779
11	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers established, 1779

Information for the next calendar must be received in the Public Affairs Office by the 15th. Please send email to William.L.Peoples@usace.army.mil. Information on events and activities of interest to all District employees is requested from the staff and the field.

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Pay Attention To The Fisherman Warning System

by Larry Forte, Hydropower Section

Jan. 15, was not only a holiday for some, but it was the first day in quite a while where it actually got warm enough to enjoy some outdoor activity. There were people enjoying hikes in the park, bicycling and of course fishing.

Maybe it was the warm weather or just the thoughts of spring that let a person feel carefree and reckless, but several of us forgot safety, caution and common sense on the first nice warm day of 2001.

This could have been the reason a father did not see the "Danger Signs" posted on the face of the power plant and lock walls that warned of turbulent waters and the possibility of sudden rising water. He also didn't see the red flashing lights on the dam or hear the warning horns sounding from the same area where he fished with his 3-year-old son in the cold waters below the Cheatham Dam. Whatever the reason, he did just that. The small boat they were fishing from was swamped when a generator was started and he and his son were spilled into the cold waters of the Cumberland River. Luckily, they had chosen to wear life jackets. Also, they were not in the water a long while before being rescued by some quick thinking people who immediately wrapped them in blankets to prevent hypothermia. The great ending to this story is that they

survived to fish another day, hopefully in a much safer place.

This past year all of the Nashville District's nine power plants have activated their fisherman warning systems. The warning systems consist of two horns, two flashing red lights and a series of warning signs to warn the visiting public of an impending turbine discharge prior to starting any generating unit. The idea is to get the attention of anyone who is exposed to the sudden rise of the tail water directly below the power plants. This sudden rise in the water could affect fishermen on the banks, in boats or someone using the access ramps to load or unload a boat.

PROCESSES

The Corps' boat-ramping facilities have signs reminding people using the lakes and rivers about the benefits of wearing life jackets. The ramps that are located to access the tail waters below the power plants also have signs warning the users of the dangers of sudden rising waters.

The new warning lights and horns will start flashing and sounding on the downstream side of the power plant several minutes before any release of water through the turbines. This should be ample time for a fisherman to move to higher ground or a boater to move downstream away from the discharge of

the turbines.

Accidents happen when people do not pay attention to the warnings or they are new to this type of fishing and they panic when they hear the warnings. One such accident happened when a fisherman's anchor got hung on the bottom of the river and he was not able to retrieve it. Instead of being prepared to cut the anchor rope and float free, he panicked and tried to use the power of the boat to dislodge the anchor. The rising water, along with the power of the boat, submerged the front of the boat and sank it. One person was saved, one person drowned and neither was wearing a life jacket.

The first warnings to use seat belts while driving had little effect on people; it was a constant education process that has led people to use this device. Now we often read where a person escaped serious injury possibly due to wearing a seat belt.

For boaters and fishermen the warnings are there, posted at ramps, on front of the dams and on the lock walls. Each person should save their own life by wearing a life jacket and, in the process, educate others so they, too, will pass the education down. If fishing below the dams, be aware of what the turbines are capable of doing and be prepared. If the signs indicate keep out of an area, pay attention — the signs and warnings are there to educate you and save lives. □